

Action, page 2, line 20 to page 3, line 1.) This statement is incorrect for the following reasons.

Jiang states that "match line 214 [is] precharged for the comparison operation." (Jiang, Col. 2, lines 55-56.) Jiang does not describe the circuitry used to precharge the match line 214, thereby strongly implying that match line 214 is precharged to the V<sub>dd</sub> supply voltage of 5 Volts while the transistor 213 is turned off. (Note that Fig. 2 of Jiang shows no voltage other than the V<sub>dd</sub> supply voltage that is capable of charging the match line 214.) If there is a no-match condition, then the transistor 213 will remain off, and the match line 214 will remain charged at the precharge voltage of 5 Volts. If there is a match condition, then the transistor 213 will turn on, and the match line 214 will be pulled down to the V<sub>ss</sub> supply voltage of 0 Volts.

Jiang therefore suggests a signal swing on match line 214 that is equal to 5 Volts (i.e., 5 Volts during a no-match condition to 0 Volts during a match condition). This signal swing is clearly larger than one transistor threshold voltage. Assuming, for the sake of argument only, that the match line 214 is pulled down to a voltage equal to the threshold voltage of the transistor 213 (rather than to 0 Volts) during a match condition, then the signal swing on the match line 214 would be equal to 5 Volts minus one transistor threshold voltage, which is still not equal to one transistor threshold voltage.

Jiang therefore fails to teach "a match line ... having a signal swing equal to one transistor threshold voltage" as recited in Claim 20. For this reason, Claim 20 is allowable over Jiang.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-19 and 21-32 are allowed. Reconsideration and allowance of Claim 20 is respectfully requested. If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 451-5903 to expedite prosecution of this case.


Respectfully submitted,



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